

Amendments To The Claims:

1 – 43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) A method for inducing apoptosis of tumor cells in a tumor-bearing patient, comprising

determining that Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling is utilized for inhibition of apoptosis of tumor cells and

administering to the patient cyclopamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in a dose that is sufficient to induce apoptosis of said tumor cells and to cause decrease of size or disappearance of the tumor.

45. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of a patient having a tumor wherein Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling is utilized for inhibition of apoptosis of the tumor cells, comprising

administering to the patient a medicament comprising cyclopamine or another compound that selectively inhibits Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling,

wherein said medicament is administered in a dose that is sufficient to induce apoptosis of said tumor cells and causes decrease of size or disappearance of the tumor.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, characterized in that a dose sufficing to induce apoptosis of the tumor cells causes a smaller proportion of normal tissue cells or no normal tissue cells to undergo apoptosis.

47. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of a patient having a tumor wherein Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling is utilized for inhibition of differentiation and for inhibition of apoptosis of tumor cells, comprising

administering to the patient a medicament comprising cyclopamine or another compound that selectively inhibits Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling,

wherein said medicament is administered in a dose that is sufficient to induce differentiation and apoptosis of said tumor cells and causes decrease of size or disappearance of

the tumor.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, characterized in that a dose sufficing to induce differentiation and apoptosis of the tumor cells causes a smaller proportion of normal tissue cells or no normal tissue cells to undergo differentiation and apoptosis.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 45 to 48, wherein said another compound that selectively inhibits Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling is a compound that binds to the same biological target as cyclopamine to exert said inhibition.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 45 to 48, wherein said another compound that selectively inhibits Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling is a derivative of cyclopamine.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 45 to 48, wherein said medicament is a pharmaceutical composition selected from the group of compositions for topical, non-topical or systemic administration.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 51, characterized in that the composition for non-topical or systemic administration is in the form of an aqueous solution.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 51, characterized in that the composition for non-topical or systemic administration is in the form of liposomes, having cyclopamine or said another compound entrapped therein.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 51, characterized in that the non-topical administration is direct intratumoral injection.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 51, characterized in that cyclopamine or said another compound is in a pharmaceutical form enabling controlled release.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 51, characterized in that cyclopamine or said another compound is adsorbed onto a dermal patch.

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 51, characterized in that said medicament is in the form of a cream or ointment or a gel or a hydrogel.

58 - 59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of a human subject having a tumor wherein Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling is utilized for inhibition of apoptosis of the tumor cells, comprising

administering to the subject a medicament comprising cyclopamine or another compound that selectively inhibits Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling,

wherein said medicament is administered in a dose that is sufficient to induce apoptosis of said tumor cells and causes decrease of size or disappearance of the tumor.

61. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of a human subject having a tumor wherein Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling is utilized for inhibition of apoptosis of the tumor cells, comprising

administering to the subject a medicament comprising cyclopamine or another compound that inhibits Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling by binding to the same biological target to which cyclopamine binds to inhibit Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling,

wherein said medicament is administered in a dose that is sufficient to induce apoptosis of said tumor cells and causes decrease of size or disappearance of the tumor.

62. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of a human subject having a tumor wherein Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling is utilized for inhibition of differentiation and for inhibition of apoptosis of the tumor cells, comprising

administering to the subject a medicament comprising cyclopamine or another compound

that selectively inhibits Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling,

wherein said medicament is administered in a dose that is sufficient to induce differentiation and apoptosis of said tumor cells and causes decrease of size or disappearance of the tumor.

63. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of a human subject having a tumor wherein Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling is utilized for inhibition of differentiation and for inhibition of apoptosis of the tumor cells, comprising

administering to the subject a medicament comprising cyclopamine or another compound that inhibits Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling by binding to the same biological target to which cyclopamine binds to inhibit Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling,

wherein said medicament is administered in a dose that is sufficient to induce differentiation and apoptosis of said tumor cells and causes decrease of size or disappearance of the tumor.

64 - 67. (Cancelled)

68. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 60, wherein the tumor is a skin tumor and said medicament is formulated for intratumoral or topical or systemic administration.

69. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 60, wherein said tumor is basal cell carcinoma or trichoepithelioma or a melanocytic tumor.

70. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 69, wherein said medicament is a formulation comprising cyclopamine or a pharmaceutically applicable salt thereof and is topically applied onto the tumor about four times or more per day to deliver about 3.6 micromole or more of cyclopamine per day to each square centimeter of the surface area of the tumor on skin.

71. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein said medicament is in the form of a cream of cyclopamine.

72. (Previously Presented) A method for causing decrease of size or disappearance of a tumor in a human, comprising

determining that Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling is utilized for inhibition of apoptosis of the tumor cells and

administering to him or to her a medicament comprising cyclopamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or another selective inhibitor of Hedgehog/Smoothed signaling to induce apoptosis of the tumor cells to cause decrease of size or disappearance of the tumor.

73 - 93. (Cancelled)